

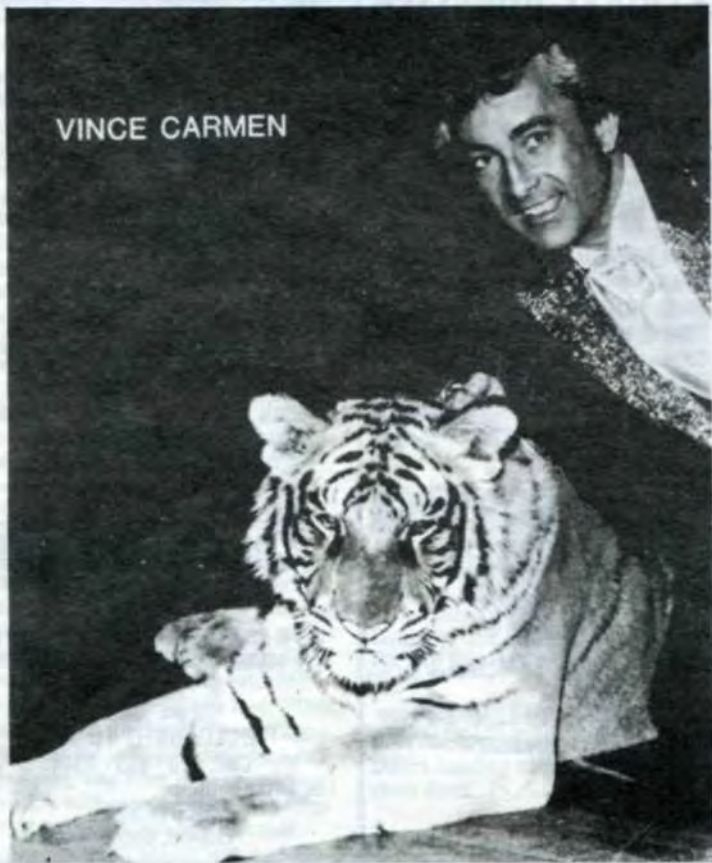


AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 28

July 12, 1982

VINCE CARMEN



Blackpool Tower Circus

by JIM ALFREDSON

On the 29th of May, we had the pleasure of seeing the Blackpool Tower Circus, in Blackpool, England. The tower at Blackpool a popular British resort town on the Irish Sea, is a huge Eiffel-like structure from the top of which the entire area can be viewed. At the base of the tower is a building which, since 1894, has housed the Tower Circus - and what an experience it is to watch a circus in a building which has been used for nothing else! It's a beautiful Victorian setting and is a one-ring affair, as is custom over there.

The event opened with a circus parade, with the entire cast marching around the ring; followed by Ringmaster Norman Barrett presenting the Roberts Bros. Ponies with their clever galloping trickery. Miss Barbara did balancing and headstands on a swaying trapeze. The Macivas, from Budapest, were next with their acrobatics off-and-on their horses. The Half Wits did their zany clown/ tumbling act. Beverly Roberts did a turn with camels and llamas, and the Famous Rastellis, the world reknown musical clowns closed the first half.

The Flying Germaines opened after the intermission, a flying act, of course, featuring four young artists. The Savios Family, from Italy, did a balancing/juggling act. The Richter Troupe (previously seen as The Macivas) did another acrobatic turn, this time using elephants as assistants. Bob Bramson did hoop juggling, and the Rastellis returned with an elephant to aid them in their antics.

The finale of the Blackpool Tower Circus always utilizes the special aquatic facilities of the building. The floor of the ring slowly sinks and fills with water, becoming a large pool. Prior to this, technicians wheel-in various spray and lighting devices, and the result is a beautiful array of fountains and colored lights, above which the final act - the Trio Carbeni, aerialists from East Germany - perform their acrobatics and iron jaw act. A wonderful finale, for a wonderful evening's entertainment.

The Tower Circus is a "British Institution" and you're guaranteed of seeing some of the finest circus talent available. Since the building has been built for the purpose and can

M & M Circus

The performance of the M & M Circus at Mt. Clemens, Mich., featured:

Overture by Larry Keenan on organ and Boom Boom Browning on drums; Oriental Spec with all performers; Arturo Ramos' Jungle cats; Hand balancing with Manuel and Andrea; Popini & Co., low wire; Circus Clowns; Don Philips & Co., The Olmedas, The Patricks (juggling display); Mario and Monic, hanging perch; Clowns with Fire Cracker; The Davisons, rola bola; Intermission.

The Flying Aztecs; Clowns and Long Shirt; Olmeda's Spanish Horse Fantasy; The Oscar-ians, risley; The Cycling Van Noys; The Cristiani elephants with Larry and Carin French; The Great Wallendas, high wire.

Staff included: Grace McIntosh, producer; Larry Dooda, circus chairman; Jimmy Doulgass, equestrian director; Carlos Obando and Don Philips, props; Bill Browning, musical director; Walt Davis, canvas boss; Vern Woerner and Don Bridwell, clowns; Circus Creators, Inc., creator of Spec and show wardrobe.

PEOPLE

DON BRIDWELL celebrated his 40th birthday and his 34th year in show business with a private party hosted on the M & M Circus by Jim Douglass, Vern Woerner and Ric and Sharon Legg.

CLARK McDERMOTT visited the Happy-time Circus at the fair in Anderson, Calif., before heading off to Canada for his own show dates.

be modified in any way to suit the performances, the show runs like clockwork; Dick Hurren, the Director of the Tower Circus, must be the envy of circus bosses everywhere!

We must mention the kindness of British circus buff and magical expert Dr. Eddie Dawes for arranging our attendance there. It was a marvelous experience, which I hope other readers can one day share.

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Jul 12-13 Brattleboro, Vt.
14-16 Pittsfield, Mass.
17-18 Glen Falls, NY

Big Apple Circus

Jul 17-25 Bronx, NY

Carson & Barnes Circus

Jul 11 Mason City, Iowa
12 Belmond
13 Waverly
14 Ames
15 Newton
16 Marengo
17 Independence

Castle Int'l Circus

Jul 12 Bassett, Nebr.
13-14 Norfolk
15 Columbus
17 Great Bend, Kan

Circus Knie

Jul 12-13 Zofingen, Switz
14-15 Windisch-Brugg
16-18 Aarau

Circus Vargas

Jul 12-14 Newark, Calif.
15-19 San Francisco

Ford Bros. Circus

Jul 10 Manning, Albta.
11 High Level
13 Pine Point, NWT
14 Hay River

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Jul 12 Poughkeepsie, NY
13 Middletown
14 Sparrowbush
15 Warwick
16 Mahwah, NJ
17 Hazlet
18 Bayonne

Liebel Family Circus

Jul 3-10 Cedar Rapids,
Iowa

Make A Circus

Jul 13 San Jose, Calif.
15 Berkeley
16 San Francisco

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Jul 13-19 San Diego, Ca.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Jul 13-25 Houston, Tex.

Roberts Bros. Circus

Jul 12 Bradford, Vt.
13 Windsor
14 Wilmington
15-16 Keene, NH

Swan Bros. Circus

Jul 13-18 Vallejo, Ca.

TNT & Royal Olympic

Jul 16-18 Oil City, Pa.

Wenatchee Youth Circus

Jul 15 Puyallup, Wash.
17 Tacoma

●●●●●●●●●●

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or phone

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●●●●●●●●●●

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Jul 12-17 Orleans, Mass.

Cold Nose Five
to Jul 18 Calgary, Can.

James H. Drew Exposition
Jul 12-17 Olney, Ill.

Dune Buggy the Clown
Jul 14 Ft. Rucker, Ala.
15 Maxwell AFB

Foley & Burk Shows
Jul 13-15 Vallejo, Ca.

Doug MacValley Stunts
to Sep 12 Storytown, NY

Scott's Medicine Show
Jul 12 Grand Forks, ND
13 Grafton
14 Devils Lake

Tent Troupe
Jul 12 Shippensburg, Pa.
13 Lutherville, Ind.
14 Hamstead
15 Silver Spring
16 Dickerson

Tip Top Shows
Jul 13-18 Seymour, Wisc

Whizzer the Clown
Jul 10 Loudonville, Oh.
17 Logan

--- MAGIC ---

Abbott's Magic Exhibit
Jul 14-17 Houston, Tex.

Harry Albacker
to Jul 18 Moosic, Pa.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Jul 14 Hoopeston, Ind.
15 Lafayette
16 Monticello
17 Merryville

Ford Bros. Personnel

Staff and personnel with Ford Bros. Circus this season includes:

John Davenport, owner/producer; Jack Gobble, general supt.; Jean Gobble, concession mgr.; B. H. Whitey Black, office mgr.; Kenny Teagle, boss canvasman; Ken Benson, ringmaster/24 hr. man; Gi Gi Null, ticket box; Chris Culp, snake show; Louise Tincher, pony ride; Tom Tincher, elephant ride; Harry Locker, elephant ride; Pati Antalek, bubble bounce; Flying Lunas, flying trapeze/cradle/traps/web; Consuelo Pierre, wire/traps; Wally Eastwood, juggling/head rigger; Pati Antalek, dressage and long rein horse and dogs; Beth Boatman, wire/goats/web; Harry Locker, lions/bears/elephants; Tom Tincher, elephant supt.; Connie Boyd, traps/juggling/web; Ken Benson, whips and ropes; Joe Schmidt, producing clown; Gus Walker, supt. of transp.; Dixie Walker, purchasing agent; Randy Hunter, asst. boss canvasman and prop boss.

The advance crew consists of: Agents, Bill Swain, Ralph Duke, Rick Colley, and R. J. King; Press, Frank Curry; Billposters, Sam Pampa, Mashall Davis; Special Agent, Steve Church.

Advance clown, Caty the Clown; Regional promotional director, Geno Hooper; Banners, Carl Albright; Communications coordinator, Peggy Null.

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Mattel Report

(The following information has been taken from Mattel's report to stockholders, for the three month period ending May 1, 1982. To fully understand the Mattel position one must read the full report).

" . . In March 1982, the Company sold Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. (Ringling) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice, Inc. for \$22,800,000 cash to a company organized by former senior management of Ringling. The sale price approximated book value including tangible assets of \$11,300,000. The Company used \$12,400,000 of the proceeds to reduce long-term bank debt and the balance was used for working capital."

" . . The Entertainment segment's revenues decreased \$18,139,000 principally due to the sale of Ringling effective as of the first day of the current fiscal year."

" . . Interest expense declined \$946,000 due primarily to repayment of a portion of long-term bank debt with the proceeds from the sale of Ringling."

" . . Subsequent to fiscal year-end, the Company sold Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. including its Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice subsidiary for \$22,800,000 cash, approximately book value. Of the proceeds, \$12,400,000 were used to reduce long-term debt and the balance to augment working capital. The sale of the Ringling Bros. businesses substantially reduced the operations of the Company's Entertainment segment which comprised approximately 7% of total sales last year and operated at a combined loss of \$1,076,000. Our Circus World theme park in cen-

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following people:

DEGELLER ATTRACTIONS

and

ROD LINK SHOWS

for some of the dates this spring.

I want you to know we booked in with the above mentioned shows and these people showed me the American Showmen's hospitality.

Also thanks to

PAUL and CARLOTTA ROBINSON

for the bookings
and for being such nice folks.

Tomi, Csopi and Anthony Liebel

tral Florida was not included in this sale."

"The sale of the Ringling Bros. portion of our Entertainment segment permits a greater concentration of resources and effort on our three principal thrusts - toys and hobbies, publishing and printing, and electronics."

" . . At our Circus World theme park, also a small part of our total business, near Orlando, Florida, attendance was down from the previous year reflecting similar problems at other major parks in the central Florida area. Future prospects for Circus World will be impacted by our restricted investment in this enterprise while concentrating our human and financial resources in other areas of the Company."

RAISING OF THE BIG TOP

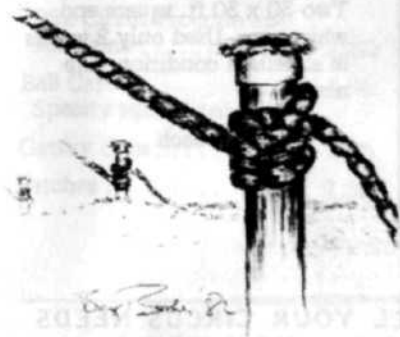
*"The Calliope is screaming and bright
Flags are riding high
On Circus canvas billowing like clouds
against the sky."*

The magic of the "Big Top" (Big Tent) has a following and pleasant nostalgia for all who have had the pleasure to marvel at the transforming of a vacant area into a colorful wonderland under a canvas big top in a short space of time.

The Big Tents had their beginning with the Circus which devised this marvelous procedure of erecting a huge tent covering. Originally, following systems of raising and lowering vast pieces of heavy canvas sail of the great sailing ships, the Circus engineers summoned the help of seasoned and knowledgeable ship's mates and sail workers from the Eastern seaboard's large masted

mathematically measured, marked and spaced on the ground area, the many 3 and 4 inch thick by 4 or 5 ft. long oak perimeter tent stakes are driven deep in the ground. This serves as the ground anchor circling the tent area, to hold the Big Top in place.

Towering wood (or later, high tensile strength aluminum) center poles (40 to 68 ft. tall), are raised and guyed in place and serve as the backbone of this mammoth canvas structure. With a system of cables and ropes running through block and falls, horses and elephants pull up these giant

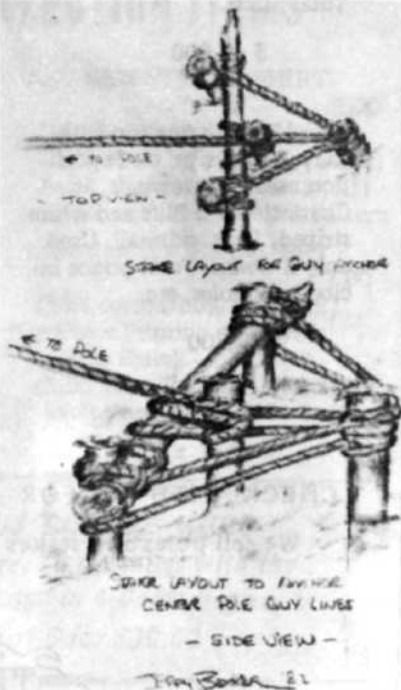


sailing vessels. Using their ship's sail, mast and rope knowledge, they played a very important role in the development of the Big Top and the most expedient and efficient means to "set up" and "tear down" this portable structure.

Circus center poles, guys, blocks, fall tackles and bale rings were based on the same principle as the ship's mast, guys, block and fall tackle. The ship's method of raising canvas sail aloft by lashing canvas to the bale ring circling the mast was copied and adapted.

From sea to land necessitated some innovations, but the basic principle was the same in "Raising Canvas."

First, the ground layout. After being



spars to their vertical position all in the center line of the tent layout.

With these "ground masts" now waiting in place, the vast oval of the Big Top's canvas sections are opened and spread by men in many positioned joining pieces on the ground around the skelton of center poles.

These sections of canvas are quickly laced together - in a technique to really be

(Continued on Page 24-A)

Int. All Star

by ED FREEMAN

Events International, Inc., has a real winner in Int'l All Star Circus.

The show opened with an overture melody of hit show tunes. A 5 piece band under the able direction of David Epperly backs the show program.

Next on the bill was illusionist Joe and Betty Eddy, featuring dove production (5), a dove vanish, crystal casket, tubes of destiny (a real mind boggler) and girl to leopard.

Hines Rucker then presented an uncaged leopard, followed by a clown gag, De Mille on the tight wire; Circus of the Stars Chief Bear Paw, presented by trainer and owner Gaylord Maynard and then intermission.

The second half opens with Lee Stephens, Champagne Poodles, featuring a motorcycle riding standard white poodle, Hand balancing by the Zachary's, foot juggling by Patti Rucker, Joe Eddie and Betty with the dancing cane and a levitation using fog and closing the show.

Belinda Maynard presented a fast trap act, featuring heel catches and a complete turn-around catching by her heels.

The show is well costumed, productions ala Vegas. Joe Eddie uses several flash effects and smoke, fire works displays.

The show moves real fast with the help of five prop men. The show is well lighted with special lighting equipment including a show owned generator. A red plastic ring curb is set off by the 16 ft. high x 55 ft. long gold lame back drop.

The show moves on 3 show owned trucks and 7 private vehicles. They carry their own novelties and concessions.

Staff: Hines Rucker, mgr; Chris Bryant, supt; David Epperly, musical director; Emil and Debbie Goetschi, concessions, along with Patti Rucker; David Epperly and Lee Stephens, novelties; Steve Ribichonek, balloons; Joey Eddie and Zachary Goetschi, spot light operators; Jay Doyle, prop supt.

Shrine Circus

by ALLEN BABCOCK

On June 2nd, I went to Bloomington, Ill. to see the Donnie Johnson Shrine Circus at the fairgrounds. Barney Adkins, circus general chairman and his staff did a fine job of obtaining talent, with the help of Donnie Johnson.

The program featured: David 'Red' Hartman, tigers; Anagems and Cannestrellis, trap display; Clown rope trick (Hap Davis); Tino's lamp post; Count Napoleon, dressage horse; Tino and an arabian horse; The Mariana Duo, cradle; Galambos, rola bola; The Ricardos, low wire; The Zamperlas, unicycles; Boxing Kangaroo; Sir Chadwick Chase and His Rolls Rotten car (Hap Davis); Tina and Olinka Zoppe, high wire; Intermission.

The Flying Valentines (Raymond and Dianne Valentine and Maureen Fitzgerald and Monica Kelly); Miss Constanza, uncaged leopards; Peitro Cannestrelli Family, teeterboard; The Zamperlas, riding act; Elephants with Ann Pike; The Maygars, inclined motorcycle; Dave Smith, cannon.

Music was provided by the Parker Duo.

THE COSTUMER

By Philip Morris

THANKS FOR MAKING THE COSTUME....
I'LL HAVE TO PAY YOU NEXT WEEK,
AS I'M A LITTLE SHORT NOW.



Some former flying act people from the Bloomington area were visiting the circus, including Art Brown, Sidney Smith, Jim Olson, and Cheri Valentine Cunningham's mother.

The weather was fine for the 1:45 p.m. show and it started out good for the evening show. But about the third act it turned cool and the wind started to blow from the northeast and some rain came. They finished the show, with the cannon act left out.

The circus had to tear down in the rain which became heavy at times.

They left here to play Peoria July 3-4, then to Macomb July 5 and Kewanee July 6th.

PEOPLE

HAROLD RUPP recently visited Hoxie Bros., Roberts Bros., Great American and the Ringling Blue Unit, plus a carnival or two.

Soviet Show

While attending the Int'l Judges Committee as U. S. representative for the Int'l Federation of Sports Acrobatics, in Moscow, Paula Dell reports she was able to see a Circus on Ice show.

It was a most unusual performance with circus acts presented on ice, plus ice skating stars.

The program included the pole between the shoulders act, a single hand balancer who skated on his hands on stilt skates, a double hand balancing act, unicycles, polar bears, unusual predatory bird act (some looked like buzzards, one was larger than a falcon), an adagio trio, etc.

They also had some overhead acts such as single trapeze and rings. Then there was a rolling globe act on a flat ladder, with the girl being pulled up to the ladder, while the four young men walked up an inclined wire.

PEOPLE

ROGER SMITH recently obtained the entire library and collection of circus material, that had been acquired by LEONARD V. FARLEY, former curator of the Harry Hertzberg Collection in San Antonio. This now gives Smith one of the most important circus collections in the country.

Miscellaneous

The Liebel Family Circus, playing dates in the east, moves on 2 pick-up trucks and a step van pulling three trailers. This year the show added a new canvas backdrop and a skirt for the elevated ring. They carry seating for 400 people.

Acts presented during the performance include: Musical Comedy, Juggling, Unicycle/Head Balancing, Trained Dogs (6), Slack wire, Unsupported Ladder, Counting Pony and Stilts.

In Memoriam

PAUL LUCKEY (74), long-time resident of Baraboo, Wisc., died of a heart attack on June 23rd. He had been ill for a long time. He served as ringmaster for the circus at the Circus World Museum for 16 years. He is survived by his wife, Ethel, who was an organist and calliope player at the museum. Born on Dec. 13, 1907, Paul was buried in Baraboo, Wisc.

ROY J. MADSEN (68), a professional magician, died at Itasca, Ill. on May 13th. Roy and his brother Ken Madsen, trained and presented "The Great Andre" a full-sized white poodle that performed magic. They were featured on many TV shows and had just recently taped a special for Japanese cable TV in Los Angeles.

Survivors include his mother, his brother Ken, a sister Eleanor and "Andre" who is the fourth successive dog with that name.

Indoor Dates

EASTERN STATES INDOOR CIRCUS 1934

— Spring Tour —

(from Texas and New Mexico Dates)

Mar. 19-24 - Pueblo, Colo - Aud - Shrine
— Travel Time —

Mar 31-Apr 7 - Billings, Mont. Fairgrd Aud

Apr 9-14 - Butte, Mont - Fox Theatre Aud

Apr 16-21 - Helena, Mont - Shrine Temple

Apr 23-28 - Spokane, Wash - Masonic Aud

Apr 30-May 5 - Tacoma, Wash - Armory

May 7-12 - Everett, Wash - Armory

May 14-19 - Bellingham, Wash - State St. A.

May 21-26 - Aberdeen, Wash - Armory

May 28-Jun 2 - Salem, Ore. - Armory

Jun 4-9 - Eugene, Ore. - Armory

Jun 11-16 - Bremerton, Wash. - Elks Aud.

Jun 18-30 - Seattle, Wash - Eagles Aud.

July 2-7 - Victoria, BC - Armory

July 9-14 - Vancouver, BC - Auditorium

End of Tour

— Fall Tour —

POLACK BROS. CIRCUS

Opening Date

Sep. 10-15 - Lewiston, Id. - Recrea. Park

Sep. 17-22 - Missoula, Mont - Loyola Aud.

Sep. 24-29 - Great Falls, Mont - Auto Bldg

Oct. 1-6 - Calgary, Albta - Victoria Pavil.

Oct. 8-13 - Helena, Mont. - Shrine Temple

Oct. 15-20 - Casper, Wyom. - Armory

(on to dates in Colo and Kanas)

Shrine dates were at Pueblo, Billings, Butte, Helena, Spokane, Tacoma, Aberdeen, Victoria, Vancouver, Lewiston and Calgary.

Elks Club dates were at Everett, Bellingham Salem, Bremerton, and Helena.

Knights of Columbus dates were at Seattle, Missoula, Great Falls, while American Legion dates were at Eugene and Casper.

(Wanted, route cards from Polack Bros. 1935 to 1951. I am in need of these to finish this research project. Write to: Michael Sporrer, 17025 N. E. 22nd St., Bellevue, Wash. 98008).

Youth Circus

by MICHAEL SPORRER

The Wenatchee Youth Circus, now in its 30th season, returned to the Seattle Center Arena on Saturday, June 19th. The show was sponsored by the Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Medical Center, in connection with its 75th anniversary.

The free 10 a.m. circus drew a light crowd, guests of the circus was the Variety Club sitting in choice front side seats. Only a small newspaper article could be found in the way of publicity, although a TV station was on hand to cover the show.

This year's program is tops and Paul Pugh has done a good job over the years, making this show the greatest little show on earth.

Making their debut this year were the eight small wagons, loaded like cross cages on a flat bed truck. They carry such things as the dining dept. (2), band wagon, props (5) and wardrobe. Each is painted a different color and titled, making a great flash on the lot.

Because the show was indoors no canvas

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was used. They have carried dressing tents and backdrop in the past years.

This years program ran as: Pre-show band concert, Circus on Parade, National Anthem, Juggling and Unicycle, Double trapeze, The Clown Family portrait, Trampoline (2 groups), Clown levitation, Low wire, Teeterboard, Clown car and vest gag, Inclined wire walk, Roman ladders, High wire walk with bicycle, intermission.

Tumbling, Gorilla and long shirt gag, Fire juggling, Whips, Guppo (Paul Pugh) balancing gag, Flying Trapeze with a great passing leap and a great finish.

Coloring books and a program pitch were made during the intermission.

Director Paul Pugh has retired as a school principal this year to devote full time to his Wenatchee Youth Circus, best wishes for a great retirement.

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Barrel racing Dalmatian dog, spayed
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Roberts Bros.

by R. J. BRYAN

Roberts Bros. Circus appeared in North
Wester, Pa., in June. We were with the show
in Sandy Lake, Pa., and Harrisville, Pa.

It is a fine little show in size, but very big
under the big top with a full 1½ hour per-
formance. It's fun and entertaining for the

entire family.

The circus is owned by Robert and Doris
Earl, with their sons and family. It is a clean
show from personnel to equipment. They
have animals, aerial numbers and a variety
of other features.

Music is provided by Lee Pinter at the or-
gan.

We certainly had a very good and enjoy-
able visit with this great show.

Do you remember?

by TED LaVELDA

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS, Season of 1959.

Jack and Angela Moore, owners and managers; Floyd "Breezy" Hill, general agent; Ted LaVelda, side show manager; Jack Turner, big snake exhibit; Dorothy Turner, ape show; Sam Price, big show tickets; Paul Pyle, lot supt. assisted by Emmitt Hickman and Paul Neese; Harry Rawls, concessions; Kelly Swim, purchasing agent; Jimmie Connors, electrician; George Bell, band director; Leona Hill, organist; Jelly Roll Rogers, headed the side show band and doubled in the big show band; Mike Moore, prop boss; Mike Minnola, 24 hr. man; Blackie Martin, transportation; the LaVelda trio and Chuck Fuller, clowns.

Col. Tim McCoy, western film star, was featured and the show used a lot of special paper on McCoy and Josky, the big elephant. Dick Shipley was elephant boss. Other performers were Dave Hoover, lions; Sidells, aerialists; Miss Leila (Fuller), contortion,

web, ladder; The Connors, dogs, ponies, goats; Eddie Mason, liberty horses and ponies; Wanda Hoover, web, ladder, elephants; Mary Rawls, aerial, trampoline.

This was the first year the show played in Canada and all 30 days were played in Ontario. The banner day of the season was at Elliott Lake, which was a uranium mining town. Four straw houses were given that day.

The opening day at Paris, Texas, the reins on Col. Tim's horse broke, causing him to fall. The local paper printed a story the next day, accusing him of being drunk and falling off. Several papers along the route picked up the story and this was responsible for some poor business.

Miscellaneous

On July 3-4, a special Fourth of July Circus was presented in Hoboken, NJ, by the Circus Arts Center, a professional circus school. Featured in the show were acrobats, clowns, jugglers, unicyclists, equilibrists, trapeze artists and wire walkers.

The Elephants

Remo Cristiani's elephants are touring with units of the Amusement Corp. of America this year. The elephant act is presented as a free attraction at many dates, and the bull ride works all spots.

They will appear on Link Shows, World of Pleasure Shows and Royal American-Link combined engagements.

Creative Outlet, of Largo, Fla., promotes all A.C.A. dates, which encompasses over

seventy dates in the mid-west and includes six state fairs.

PEOPLE

DAVID COPPERFIELD, magician, was a guest performer on the John Davidson TV Show on June 22nd. He did the Canary in an egg, The Invisible Deck and then they showed his disappearance of a jet plane.

Sells & Gray

by 'CIRCUS JOE' Valenciano

Sells & Gray 3 Ring Circus, season of 1962 was truly a nice show. As I remember, this was the last of the "big time circus" in a medium size. By this I mean they had everything that other tent shows had already got rid of, except maybe the Mills show.

Sells & Gray was owned and operated by The Acme Circus Corp., and managed by Bill English. The top was a 90 round end, with three center sections. In the big top they had a lot of reserved chair seating on both the long and short sides. They still had a wild west concert.

The cookhouse was a good-sized tent and they had waiters too. The side show was a good sized three pole round end top. It included a fire eater, sword swallower, magic, Punch & Judy and a good five piece jazz band, with a girl dancer.

The main show had a five piece band. The clown numbers were presented by Bob-O

and Bobbino Langin, and Phil and Bonnie Bonta.

The show ran as follows: The Valencianos, trampoline, center ring; Sells & Gray horses in Rings 1 and 3; Clowns; Lola Sanchez, aerial revolves above center ring; The Bontas and The DeLocks, dog acts in rings 1 and 3; Miss C. Hudson and Miss J. Sanchez, web in rings 1 and 3; The Monzanos, hand balancing in center ring; Pony Drills in rings 1 and 3; Carlos, Indian Fire Dance; Miss Lola and Miss Ulla, swinging ladders in rings 1 and 3; Clowns; The Newman and Dickason Bears in all three rings; Miss Ulla, swinging trapeze in center ring; Clowns; The Monzanos, perch pole, center ring; The Sells & Gray elephants.

As you can see it was a very good show, and the circus was actually carrying two bands. I recall one time when the band sleeper broke down and there was no band so the side show band filled in.

Old Circus Band

by BOB and JUDY HARRISON

An 18-piece unit that plays traditional American circus music - marches, one-steps, galops and cakewalks - which were written between 1880 and 1920 is alive in the heart of the French Quarter of New Orleans. "The Old Circus Band" is directed by Jim Ille, a long-time musician formerly with Ringling-Barnum, Clyde Beatty, Royal Hanneford and other Canadian and Puerto Rican groups.

In 1969, after bandleader Merle Evans retired from Ringling Bros., Ille, on Evans' recommendation, was hired by Irvin Feld to take his place. That he did until 1971.

Ille's parents were both in show business and his Dad trouped for 30 years. When he was 6, his Dad bought him a bugle, then a year later rented him a trumpet for \$1.00. Quickly he was good enough to buy one, and his career was never in doubt.

After his stint in the army with its concert band, he was off to the big top. Ille was married to Kay Hanneford, who until her death in 1976, was one of the all-time great

bareback riders.

Ille's brother-in-law, Tommy Hanneford, produces the Shrine Circus in many major cities, and the Hanneford family is steeped in bareback tradition, dating to 1610. Jim's daughter, Nellie, is a featured performer of the Hanneford troupe, and his mother-in-law nearly 100 years of age, still goes in the ring every day as the ring mistress.

But in 1976, after his wife's death, Ille decided he had enough of the road. "You get up at 8, play three shows on Saturday, the 10:30 show, 2 in the afternoon and 8 that night. You wind up eating a wrinkled-up hot dog and drinking some rancid coffee. When Saturday's over, you're whipped, and you still have to do the Sunday show."

He had been in New Orleans off and on, had cut his teeth playing in night spots such as the Puppy House on Bourbon Street and the Dog House on Rampart Street, way back in 1940. So he moved to New Orleans and now lives in the Quarter. He plays on Tuesday and Sunday evenings at Carlo Montalbano's Blue Angel on Bourbon Street with a jazz group called "Sons of the Depression."

Circus music over the years has changed. Ringling altered its instrumentation and the kind of traditional music it offered. Today it sounds more like a European dance band. Last year, Ille was looking over his old tunes "I had all this great music just sitting around. It hadn't been played in almost 30 years."

So he put together a group, "The Old Circus Band" and they played a concert in Jackson Square which went over extremely well.

"I'm a sucker for traditionalism," says Ille. "Stuff like what you hear at Preservation Hall. We started this just for kicks, but we're the only group in the world playing this kind of music. We play a lot of Ragtime, Cakewalks, Trombone Smears and Circus marches. It's not Sousa, it's much more technical and a lot of them you couldn't march to."

Ille has a lot of great memories from his circus days. "Sure, it's a gypsy life. Home is the road. But it's just like being home except it moves every day."

With Ringling Bros., Ille occupied a 32 ft. stateroom on the circus train, right next to that of Gunther Gebel-Williams. The late Karl Wallenda was one of his closest friends. He was in Cecil B. DeMille's 1951 movie,

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(Continued on Next Page)

OLD CIRCUS BAND (Continued)

"The Greatest Show on Earth" with Charlton Heston, Betty Hutton and Cornel Wilde and even played knock rummy with the legendary producer.

"There was a tent where the ticket sellers, ushers and band members dressed. Lot of money in that tent," Ille recalled of the days when the circus was under canvas. "We would use a tuba trunk for a table and put blanket on top of it. When DeMille found out about the game, he was there every day, Johnny on the spot."

Ille laughs at one of the common misconceptions about circus music and the animal acts. "People say, 'boy, didn't that horse keep great time with the music!' not at all. We just picked music that kept time with the horse."

The kind of music heard on the streets of New Orleans from "The Old Circus Band" include "Entry of the Gladiators" (also called "Thunder and Blazes"), "Barnum & Bailey's Favorite", "Ringling Bros. Grand Entry", a one-step called "Stop It" and "Wal-

king Frog", plus many others.

The musicians are some of the finest in the city and certainly stir up your circus blood flow.

Concerts this year featuring "The Old Circus Band" will also include entertainment from many varied performers. On tap will be Professor Gizmo, an amazing one-man band, tightrope walking, a mime, a theatre for young people, a circus fat lady, and a regiment of local circus clowns. And for some reason, the Wisconsin Cheese Festival will provide a 100 ft. long Swiss cheese Po-Boy.

If you are in New Orleans, do look up Jimmy Ille and hear some great music. If you are even more fortunate, you will get a chance to see and hear "The Old Circus Band" of New Orleans for a current day thrill of yesteryear's circus music.

DAVID CHIBARA, former clown with JIM DOUGLASS' clown alley, and now with the 'Pirates of the Sky' act, visited with friends on the M & M Circus at Mt. Clemens, Mich.

RAISING THE BIG TOP (Continued)

considered the first Zipper ever devised. Built for quick and simple assembly and disassembly, a row of steel grommet rings through the canvas on one section is placed in overlap position on the other section of equally spaced rows of rope loops fastened to the joining section of canvas.

Thus, the zipper system of joining and parting consists of starting at the tope edge and threading the rope loops into the corresponding steel grommet rings on the overlapping canvas section to be joined. The protruding lower loop through the grommet is then inserted into the top loop and pulled down to engage the next lower loop. This simple loop lacing is continued with all the loops together in chain fashion. The last loop is tied off securely. This all serves to unite the canvas sections and quickly and easily separate them by loosening the tied-off end loop. In this fashion the loops automatically slip apart and out of the grommets as the sections are pulled apart on the tear-down operation. A storm flap is snapped in place over this laced section to prevent leakage in heavy weather.

Finally, the canvas center sections, at their contact with the bale ring around the base of the center poles, are lashed to their bale rings awaiting their ascension up the huge poles - thus raising or "peaking the tent." This completes the lacing of the canvas prior to raising.

Canvas men now begin pushing up the sidewall poles around the outer edge perimeter of the canvas sections. By inserting the horn (spike) of the sidewall poles in the pole hole grommets of the canvas edge, they push and pull this smaller outer pole to its vertical position, and then half hitch

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the tent guy rope to its opposite spaced tent stake. This great outer circle of canvas with all sidewall poles in place now resembles a giant canvas bowl.

At a signal from the boss canvasman, elephant or horse power, working simultaneously, pull the peaks of the canvas up the poles 1/3 of the way high.

Ovals of quarter poles that support the canvas area stretching between the center

(Continued on Page 24-B)

RAISING THE BIG TOP (Continued)

poles and the outer sidewall poles, are partially pushed in place and tied off by inserting the horn or poles through the quarter grommet hole spaced openings. This is accomplished by men and horse power.

With all quarter poles now in place, the canvas is once again pulled up the center poles by the bale rings to its final top position and the ropes running the length of the center poles are tied off at the base pin of these poles.

Returning to the positioning of the quarter poles, they are fastened down to stakes to prevent wind jumping and pole collapse.

To finally complete this feat of raising the Big Top, more gangs of men "hand guy out" by tightening the total perimeter stake ropes. This huge task is all done in unison and a romantic like rhythm is developed by these men in half hitching the tent ropes securely to each stake. With this final operation, the entire tent is safely tight, stretched taut and "sea worthy" in the language of the old canvas salts.

This amazing and unique system, devised by these iron men, can be considered an innovation of "Yankee ingenuity" at its best. The basic principles and techniques developed by these pioneers of the circus are still used in the erection of the "Big Tops" left today.

. . . . Jerry Booker

(Art work with this article is by Jerry Booker).

PEOPLE

PAUL LUBERA did his Space-Contortion act for a Frank Massey produced show for Brandy Alexander at the New Peppermint Lounge in New York City on June 28th.

BILL RIVERS and KEVIN KINZER are at the Denver Zoological Gardens running the camel ride concession.

HO-PO the Maine Clown just completed the Maine Shrine Circus dates and reports he will be at the Eastern States Expo in Sept. for Wayne McCary.



EMMETT KELLY, Jr. and NANCY CIRCUS at Essex Jct., Vt. on June 6th, promoted by Blanche Zeller via agent Leonard Green, was a 3-ringer done 1-ring at a time.

Acts included Aria's Bears, Aria's Dogs, Jim Davis' Dogs, Haviland's Dogs, Fossett's Kangaroo, Fossett's Chimps, Galumbos rolling globes and juggling, Olinka's look walk, Magyars aerial motorcycle, Lucky Bros., Nicholas Bros., Zerbini riding act, Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire and an under-amplified band. Circus closer was the Hugo Zacchini cannon which went over with a bang, a bit louder than the band! Estimated attendance was in excess of 11,000.

Hope I didn't miss anyone in the fine array of talent. Really no excuse - but I was busy with my dogs!

There were other shows on the grounds too. Saw a big magic show starring Scalzo amongst other attractions that were getting audience attention.

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The stage show at the Hartford, Conn., Bushnell Auditorium on June 19th starred Joey Bishop, Tessie O'Shea, Esther Marrow, Allan Jones, Jackie Vernon, Harmonica Rascals, Pierre DuPont & Sparky, the Agostinos, juggler Edward Jackman, magician Harry Maurer, the Vodvilettes dancing duo and Gordon Edwards' 8-piece band.

Roy Radin Promotions handled the Bishop emcee vehicle expertly and seem to be enjoying continued success with their efforts at fund-raising for various civic protection groups like Sheriff's Associations, or the Police and Fire Benevolent organizations.

Radin himself has been recently involved in a New York scandal. Apparently, he has been more successful in clearing his name than one of his vaudeville predecessors, the late Alexander Pantages, who went to prison and lost his theatrical empire because of similar scandals years ago.

Attendance for the 10 act, one set variety romp was slightly more than one-half of the orchestra and loge seats, altho obviously the advance program advertising and advance ticket sale was very big.

Fair Date

Roberts Bros. Circus, which, this season fielded a second unit to play fair dates, will appear as a free feature of the Howard County 4-H Fair, Greentown, Ind., Aug. 2 thru 7.

Producer Bob Earl will coordinate the talent and the show will be presented in a European one-ring format.

Paul Robinson, Creative Outlet, Largo, Fla. is promoting the event and Deggeller Attractions appears on the midway. Circus performances will be at 4 and 7 p.m. on weekdays and 2, 4 and 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Vanishing Breed

ABC-TV's "American Sportsman" offered a special look at elephants as part of its Sunday, June 27th program. The feature was based on the efforts of Randy Moore to re-train three former circus elephants so that they could return to their native Kenya.

The three elephants were born in Africa and came to the U. S. in 1967. They were acquired by the late Morgan Berry and had been presented in the circus by Eloise Berchtold.

After the death of both Morgan and Eloise the elephants were acquired by Randy who in 1979 wanted to take them back to Africa. He started them on a training program that would lead to their return. From Oregon the animals went to Texas, then Maryland and finally to Brooklyn where they were loaded aboard a freighter for the voyage to Africa.

The half hour program showed the animals as they were being trained, as they were put aboard the ship, their journey across the Atlantic and finally their arrival in Africa. Their introduction to their native land was also well covered.

The program included films about the slaughter of elephants in various parts of Africa for their tusks, showed the animals as they broke down fences seeking food, and their care of youngsters and each other.

Also shown was the thinning of a herd, an action that involved the killing of the huge female elephants and capturing of the babies for shipment and sale to overseas markets.

There was a time when some 10 million elephants roamed about Africa, but today only a fraction of that number still remain. The growth of cities, population and the poachers have all helped to cut down the elephant population. In one park alone 15,000 elephants lived there, while today there are less than a third that number in the park.

Researchers feel the days of the African elephant are numbered and not much is being done to protect them. It is hoped that at least a few elephants might survive and be protected for the future, but that future seems dark, indeed!

Show Visit

by ALLEN BABCOCK

The week of May 30/June 5, I drove some 800 miles to see the Chicago Circus Parade and several circuses.

Weather for the parade was beautiful with bright sunshine and a cool breeze coming off Lake Michigan. At the Navy Pier, where the horses were hooked up, I had a chance to visit with Ed Freeman, Bill Backstein, Randolph Ricketts and Bob Phebus. Katherine Hepburn was also there, being escorted by Bill Schultz, director of the Circus World Museum.

On the way home we made a stop at Boringbrook to see Franzen Bros. Circus. They were on a muddy lot. Business was good and they had to give an extra show despite the heavy rains. Arthur Cooksey and the Scheiman's were also visiting the show.

On June 5th, Carson & Barnes Circus came to Jacksonville, Ill., playing on the fair grounds. Some of the show trucks were late getting in because they had been on such a soggy lot the day before. They had some nice houses and it is a fine performance. Jim and Beverly Royal were saying their goodbyes here as they were leaving to join the Chipperfield Circus in England.

Visitors included Charlie Bellatti, Harry Wise, Jack and Clifford Albea, Vernon Richardson, Jon Friday, Chuck Kay and Bill Backstein.

On June 9th, the Int. All Star Circus came to Decatur, Ill. It was the first time I had seen this show since 1977 and they have a good performance. Mari Jo Couls and Ed Freeman were visiting here.

Coming up are the Great Wallendas at Springfield, Ill. over July 4th, then the TNT Circus will be in Normal, Ill. Aug. 25-29 and Ron Kelroy is scheduled to bring in a show for the Illinois State Fair.

PEOPLE

CORKY the Clown (Grant Dozier) and his wife APRIL are the proud parents of a son, Dustin Allen, who was born one month premature. The new arrival is a healthy 6 lb. 7 oz. and measures 19 in. long.

New Book

by *GEORGE C. BINGAMAN*

CIRCUS WORLD by Agnes Yarnall. Published by Dorrance & Co., 828 Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, Pa. 19010.

Yesteryear's circus has chronicled acts that brought sculpture and poetry into the center ring. Agnes Yarnall's new book brings these seldom used art forms into a fresh employment for circus and art friends.

Agnes Yarnall's 91 pages of black and white photographs of her sculpture and poems is a captivating book ushering the reader into the magic world inside the circus world and its clowns and their pet animals - the inner world of their feelings and points of view!

The tribute to Otto Griebling is noteworthy because she catches the secret of his comic art in these well-put lines:

"You approach the ladies,

They think you are going to kiss them

And they shriek and carry on -

But they are wrong,

You only want to dust

The brass rail of the box."

It was quite a coincidence that the day I obtained this book published near Philadelphia, that I should be in the City of Brotherly Love, discussing with Ringling clowns the superb talents of the late Otto, who may have been the best in the Twentieth!

In "Harlequin" on Page 17, she hits the vital nerve in the clowns' holy of holies.

"So supreme your art,

The Audience forgets

Your broken heart!"

The attractiveness of this arty circus book lies in its ability to express the child's point of view in the poetic lines. Is not this the secret to circusing? The ability to tickle the fancy of the child and children of all ages. Children loves animals, toys. Yarnall's poems deal with dogs, a goose, a ball, a monowheel,

a piglet, an elephant, a bear, three horses.

The paradox of circusing reaches a sharp focus in "Carnival", page 9 where the poet sees

"Suddenly I understand

Your anguish

And with terrible awareness

It becomes mine!

You are a real

Human being!

But your head

Is the head of a pig!"

Clowns are the main performers in Circus World. They are femine, hunchback, grieving, juggling, playing with balls, smiling, playing with suspenders. Roustabouts are also there.

It is curious that America's most famous clown Charlie Chaplin has immortalized his lyrics, "Smile though your heart is breaking, etc." and that the author in "Head of Smiling Clown" should pinpoint it all "how wonderful is the power of your smile!"

These are sufficient goodies. If you want to sit near the center ring go to the circus for its thrills, chills and spills. If you want to enter the inner sanctuary of circus performers and animals and share their feelings and emotions open Agnes Yarnall's "Circus World."

PEOPLE

DAN RATHER, of CBS-TV news recently did a little feature on the circus, calling it a vanishing era. The report included some views of the Beatty-Cole Circus.

MANZINI, escape artist, is touring in New England, playing fairs, parks, etc.

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Mario Manzini

by JOSEPH FOX

Mario Manzini, champion escape artist, was a featured act at the 'Greater Westchester County Fair' held at Yonkers Raceway, NY (May 27 thru June 6). This was Manzini's second year with the fair. Mario performed twice on each weekday and three times a day on weekends (as did the other acts), thirty minutes for each performance.

Assisted by two adult members of the audience, Manzini's stage performance featured an instant release from a rope tie, followed by the ever-popular comedy Kellar rope tie behind the back. Next Mario presented the main escape: a full view double-bag escape.

First the two audience helpers heavily shackled down Manzini with numerous pairs of handcuffs on his wrists and arms, and then forced Mario into a hunched-over position by connecting the wrist restraints to the shackles on his legs via another pair of handcuffs.

Now Dina, Mario's assistant, introduced

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approximately twenty feet of heavy chain and Mario invited the two spectators to chain and lock it around him in any position they chose. In such a state, Manzini was then locked inside a canvas mailbag, which itself was then tied inside a large cloth sack.

After tossing and rolling around on the stage, Manzini completely escaped from the shackles and bags in approximately 3½ minutes, to well-deserved applause.

Inclement weather was had throughout most of the fair dates. On such rainy occasions, Mario had to replace the bag escape with a straitjacket escape.

Mario's presentation is that of the Tony Curtis movie version, standing upright with body movement - very dramatic. A comedy thumbcuff escape was also featured, where-

(Continued on Next Page)

PEOPLE

MIKE CECERE is working on a new act with two female African elephants, which he hopes to add to the animal show soon. He is already presenting chimps and cats on the public shows.

PAULA DELL, who is active in promoting sports acrobatics, recently visited with **ELFIE ALTHOFF-JACOBI** while in Europe. Her circus was playing in a small Austrian town across the Swiss border.

THE TRAMPOLINE GUYS & GALS are currently working at a theme park in Richmond, Va., called Kings Dominion.

Mail Returned

The Post Office has returned Circus Reports addressed to the following people:

Francis Green	Neil Kahanovitz
Tim Bickmore	James Ille
Hillary Detjens	Manuel Ruffin
Alamo Enterprises	T. J. Howell

MANZINI (Continued)

as the spectator is unable to release himself from the restraint even when holding the key, Mario proceeds to then do an instant release from them, having his thumbs fastened behind his back.

As usual, during each performance, Manzini issued a \$5000 challenge to any police officer who can successfully restrain him with their own cuffs. At one show the challenge was accepted. The officer's cuffs were added to those already on Manzini's arms immediately before entering the double bags. Close to four minutes elapsed before Mario emerged from the bags minus all the restraints except for the officer's cuffs. Manzini then proceeded to escape from the police cuffs in full view of all.

As a finale to the day's performances, each night Manzini also featured his upside-down aerial (burning rope) straitjacket escape from a crane.

Unlike magic acts, a professional escape show is rarely seen by the public. Manzini's performances were all well-received by a public who had certainly witnessed something new and different.

A Losing Date

by PAUL WESTMORE

(From the Niagara Falls, NY, Gazette, dated June 21, 1982).

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus lost money during its recent five-day run at the Niagara Falls International Convention Center (June 9-13) because it sold 28% of the tickets available for its 10 performances.

The circus, nevertheless, will likely be back in four or five years despite the poor showing, a circus official said.

Convention center figures show 22,638 of 80,000 tickets were sold for the 10 circus performances

"We lost a considerable amount of money in Niagara Falls, but the season has been very good for us overall so far," said Allen Bloom, circus senior vice president of marketing and sales. "We did not do well at all in Niagara Falls compared to what we've done in the rest of the country."

Bloom would not, however, reveal the amount of money the circus lost.

He said the circus needed to sell about 70% of the tickets at the center to make a profit.

"It doesn't mean we aren't coming back to Niagara Falls," he said, "As well as being a profit-making organization, we try to come back to a city every four or five years to give everyone an opportunity to see the 'Greatest Show on Earth.'"

"Certainly we won't be back next year or the year after, but this definitely is not the last year we'll be in Niagara Falls," Bloom said. "We don't play any city and say we are never coming back. We go back when we can."

"That's part of our image and the reason why we've been around for 112 years," he said. "If we only went to places where we made money, I think the show would have died out 50 years ago. We keep our name in front of the market place by giving as many people the opportunity to see the show as possible - that includes playing cities where we don't make money."

Bloom said the circus picks a number of cities each year to perform in even though it knows it will lose money. He said the company offsets the losses by playing in

(Continued on Next Page)

Traveling Troupe

Inflation has forced Armstrong's Caravan Stage Company to cut back on its show. As a result this year the show is operating with 8 Clydesdale horses instead of 11 horses, 5 wagons instead of 6 and 16 players instead of the former 35 people.

The show which tours in British Columbia has continued to receive its Federal and Provincial government subsidies, but the corporation and foundation grants are only half of what they used to be. "They just don't have the money to sponsor groups." Many tentative dates have still not been signed because of a lack of local government financial help.



But, hard times or not, the company continues to carry out its tradition of bringing live theatre to towns that are off the beaten track. The horse drawn caravan is visiting interior towns and provides a variety of entertainment such as jugglers, mimes, clowns and a stage presentation.

This year's tour includes shows at: Armstrong/Vernon area, June 10-16; Falkland, June 19; Douglas Lake, July 2-3; Meritt, July 7-9; Ashcroft, July 10-11; Lillooet, July 17-18; Hat Creek, July 24-25; Savona, July 30; Kamloops, Aug. 10-14; Chase, Aug. 21-22; Salmon Arm, Aug. 27-29; Enderby, Sept. 3-4 and Armstrong, Sept. 8th.

LOSING DATE (Continued)

enough cities where it's sure to make a profit.

Bloom said there were three reasons for the poor attendance - population, economy and the time of year.

"The population base is too small," he said. "It's near Buffalo, but people are less likely to travel to Niagara Falls from Buffalo to see it. The overall economy is bad, especially in that particular area. It's the beginning of summer. In areas where they have a long winter, people psychology don't want to go indoors at that time of year."

Center Director Louis S. Harp said he did not know how well a draw the circus was in other parts of the country.

"I think that it is pretty good considering the economy," he said. "I think any promoter will never be satisfied, but I think it's a hell of a good showing. I hope they come back next year.

"They like to play this building because it's easy to get into and easy to rig," Harp said.

A. C. Nelsen Moves

After 63 years in Downtown Omaha, A. C. Nelsen Company has moved to an all new sales, service and trailer supply store complex. The new location is 11818 'L' Street. It is easily accessible to Interstate 80.

The new facilities face L Street, but due to highway regulations, entrance cannot be made from there. It is necessary to use 'I' Street entrance.

If traveling from the West, take L Street West and go to the first red light which is 120th Street. Then turn right to the next light which is 'I' Street, then turn right again to the entrance. If coming from the East, take 'I' Street exit west to entrance.

A. C. Nelsen Company has been serving performers and show people for over 40 years. They feel fortunate to have so many loyal customers and friends on most major circuses in the United States, as well as in Europe.

They specialize in dealing with all show people. Furnishing their needs in travel trailers, light trucks, cars, concession trailers and customized units. They finance the items they sell. Their insurance agency Central Insurance Agency is capable of furnishing most all types of coverages on vehicles, animals and circuses.

They invite all of their customers and any show people traveling through Omaha to stop in at the new facilities.

THE NEWS
in Brief

On June 22nd, a male African bush elephant was born at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in Southern California. The baby's mother is "Hatari" and was in the 1962 film "Hatari" with John Wayne and Red Buttons